

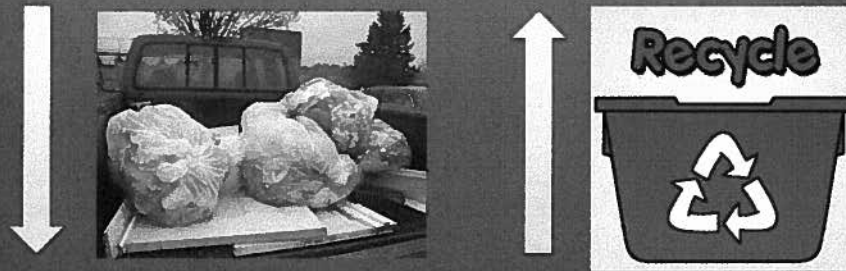
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# Green Acton's Zero Waste Committee

*Waste Reduction Initiatives for  
Acton*

## Why Are We Here Today?



As part of the Green Initiative we are spearheading several programs that will help Acton

- Divert materials out of our waste stream into recycling options
- Inform residents of recycling options
- Make recycling in town easier
- Reduce the cost of waste disposal

# Benefits to the Town

## ❖ Reduce **costs** of waste removal

- Town currently sends waste out of state at great cost
- Recycling costs are close to zero for Acton
- Recycling rate is in the lower half of all towns in Mass

## ❖ Help the **environment**

- Reduce greenhouse gases by shipping less waste
- Reduce volume sent to landfills or incinerators
- Landfill space is running out

## ❖ Jump start on future State requirements

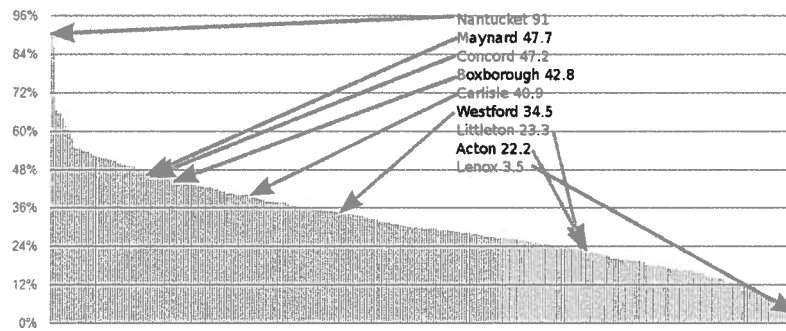
- Waste bans starting to be enforced
- Recycling creates Massachusetts jobs

**Waste bans:** In Mass there is a schedule to start enforcing the rule against throwing away recyclables.

**Do the right thing**

# Recycling in Massachusetts

Recycling rate in Massachusetts Communities (2008)



Source: DEP

## Recent Actions

- ❖ Town DPW/Highway Department has improved recycling options and reduced trash
  - New recycling options at the transfer station
  - Recycling areas are now accessible
- ❖ Green Acton efforts to reduce trash and increase recycling



Styrofoam, rigid plastic, motor oil, fluorescents,  
Rearranged to be more inviting

Working to increase recycling:

Learned a lot about recycling vendors

Importance of education

Importance of accessibility

Partnering with the schools, AB PIP STEM

Trash sort at high school and Douglas

Sponsoring the clean up day

Provided water bottles to town boards to reduce throw-away plastic bottles



Next Steps:

# Request Funds For



Refresh Signs & Brochures



Recycling at Rec Areas



Start Drop/Swap Shed

Recommend allocating \$15,000 from the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund for these waste reduction efforts.

Better signage at transfer station, new pamphlet, new material on web, green acton can take lead. Money would be needed for signage and printing  
Rec: Discussions in process. Money will be needed for extra staffing and more bins

Green Acton has researched existing drop/swap programs in MA, and is ready to work with the town to put up a shed and staff it with people from the senior service program and volunteers funding needed for shed. Discussions in process with DPW on location, decision is waiting on completion of solar staging equipment.

# No or Low Cost Actions

- ❖ Change Permitting Requirements
  - Require private haulers to report loads
- ❖ Endorse the Extended Producer Responsibility initiative



All trash haulers need a permit. Add permitting to require reporting of trash and recycling tonnages in the same format as required by the state for town reports. This gets us a more comprehensive view of trash and recycling in Acton, to inform future improvement measures.

EPR framework requires producers to take responsibility for full life cycle of its products – cradle to grave. The EPR framework allows regulators to develop industry-specific requirements without going back to the legislature each time.



# Support the SMART Grant

- ❖ **Save Money And Reduce Trash**

- ❖ **Increase diversion of materials...**

- Grant from the Mass DEP to help towns improve their waste disposal programs
- Provide analysis of current waste disposal programs
- Suggest ways to reduce waste and increase recycling in Acton

# Summary

- ❖ We are asking the Board of Selectmen to
  - Direct Steve Ledoux to authorize \$15,000 from the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund in FY15 budget to support general solid waste reduction activities
  - Direct staff to submit the SMART grant to Mass DEP
  - Support requiring haulers to report tonnage
  - Endorse the Extended Producer Responsibility Initiative